

From: Orlando Echevarria
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am web developer for the School of Engineering for the University of Connecticut. I am e-mailing you in regards to the Microsoft Anti-trust trial settlement. As a follower of this case since Netscape and Microsoft were adversaries in the browser market, I am appalled by the settlement that was reached with the nine attorney generals. I am appalled that the interest of the taxpayer and consumer was "waived." I am distressed that with the settlement, Microsoft is literally unscathed by the remedies(settlement). There are three examples that the settlement does not go far enough to punish Microsoft for it's illegal behaviour.

The first example is that Microsoft is allowed to continue it's anti-competitive behaviour through forcing OEM's to sign contracts that forces them to use no other rival browser or software. Microsoft claims that they are for consumer choice and freedom, but yet they will not allow me to choose what operating system or software I choose to run on my PC because they manipulate their contracts to fit their(Microsoft) needs and not the consumer. Am I hurt by this? The answer is yes because I can not go to a store and buy a PC and choose the software I want on it. I am forced to accept and buy something that I am not going to use, but yet it is forced down my throat.

The second example are the API's. I believe in the interest of fairness, Microsoft should make public ALL API's. They have hidden API's that allow them to maintain a leverage over their competitors and as a result, leave the competitors out of a loop. I propose that Microsoft open the source code to their flagship OS, Windows 98, Windows 98 SE, Windows Millenium and Windows NT 4.x series. This remedy will fit the crimes that they have committed against the consumer and competition.

My two cents,

Orlando Echevarria